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## PART.

**FILE No.**





Miss E L Willis  
CRE Dept (4)  
DTI  
1 Victoria St  
London SW1H 0ET



6/40

17 February 1974

188 26/2

Dear Miss Willis,

### BIGGEST EVER IMPORT PROGRAMME

1. I am enclosing a copy of a "Baghdad Observer" item headed "Biggest Ever Import Programme" which puts total allocations for imports for 74/75 at ID 1,134 million.
2. This figure is three times as large as the previous import programme of ID 350 m, although the latter figure was subsequently augmented. The new import programme remains about three quarters for capital goods. We shall send details as they become available.
3. I am copying this letter and its enclosure to Scott in ECGD and Burton in Middle East Dept., FCO.

Yours sincerely

P. Donovan.

Enc

pa  
188 26/2





## ID.1,134,000,000 ALLOCATED FOR 1974-75 IMPORT PROGRAMME

Allocations for import programme of 1974-75 have been raised to ID. 1,134,000,000, the highest ever in Iraq's history, according to a statement by **Sd. Hikmat al-Azzawi**, the Minister of Economy.

The Trade Regulation Board is to ratify the above allocations drawn up by an ad hoc committee on the formulation of the current year's import programme, the Minister told **INA**.

The committee comprised representatives from the Ministries of Planning, Industry, Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Economy, Oil and Minerals and Health as well as the Central Bank of Iraq and Iraqi Federation of Industries.

"In accordance with the resolutions of the Arab Baath Socialist Party 8th regional conference and in line with the arrangements adopted by the political leadership of the revolution to the effect of drawing up a comprehensive development plan and promoting citizens' living conditions, the proposed import programme allocations have involved impressively sizeable increases to meet revolutionary ambitious targets", the Minister said.

The import programme committee took into consideration:

- 1— Full coverage of the necessary requirements of gov-

ernment departments to meet the implementation of developing plan projects.

- 2— Full coverage of the requirements of current and prospective projects within the industrial and other sectors, especially machinery, raw materials and replacement parts.

(continued from page 1)

"The policy of expanding imports has been consistent with the revolutionary steps to accelerate the implementation of major projects under the national development plan, with due consideration to certain economic and social factors, notably the concentration on the necessity of expanding national production as a basic foundation for prospective import policies", the Minister said.

"The new obligations of the Ministry of Economy are embodied in bringing about new formulas to achieve the economic equilibrium between imports and exports, i.e. between domestic production and domestic consumption. This should necessarily require the availability of essential consumer goods at moderate prices with a view to realising a growing pace of prosperity within the framework of our developing economy", the Minister stressed.

"The public trading sector has maintained its leading po-

- 3— Full satisfaction of the people's demand for foodstuffs and essential consumer goods, to supplement domestic output.

The import programme committee tried, in the light of available data, to achieve two basic objectives, besides previous considerations, namely the necessity of building up a sufficient commodity stock to meet various consumer and capital commodity demands, with due consideration to price fluctuation on world markets.

(continued on page 4)

sition in the import trade under the new import programme. Meanwhile, the Private Sector's contribution has been enhanced within specific limits", the Minister added.

"Under the new programme, ID. 220 million has been allocated for the import of consumer goods and the remainder for the capital and intermediary goods, besides an allocation for contingencies," the Minister disclosed.

**Sd. Azzawi** further explained that the current year's import programme was consistent with the commodity classification adopted by the customs tariff system and the standard international trade classification (SITC) —amended— thus, import allocation were distributed to the bodies entitled to carry out import formalities, namely the industrial Public Sector, the commercial Public Sector, the commercial Private Sector, the industrial Private and Mixed Sectors and other government departments, in accordance with the classification drawn

up in relation to economic groups.

"Commodities are being classified in line with commodity utilisation, viz. consumer goods, intermediary goods and capital goods, rather than the previous classification which went into the lines of current consumer goods, durable consumer goods and capital goods", the Minister elaborated.

"The new classification helps carry out economic studies within the national development plans and connect between the import programme and the investment and production plans in the agricultural and commodity sectors on the one hand, and between the programme and the foreign exchange budget on the other", the Minister explained.

"The new classification depicts an accurate posture on the characteristics and utilisation of the imported commodities within the framework of Iraq's manufacturing industry", the Minister said.

Explaining this, **Sd. Azzawi** pointed out that the adoption

of the SITC in the import programme would facilitate the comparison between actual imports, values of import licences, commodities shipped, deliveries and bonded commodities within Iraq and abroad. "This provides a firm foundation to follow up the stock position of each imported commodity", the Minister said.

"The trade Regulation Board has adopted a resolution to the effect of organising bodies entitled to import various commodities to grant licences for the import of essential goods, as from January 1st 1974, calculated within the 1974-75 import programme. This measure has provided the State Organisation of Trade (SOT) with the opportunity to place huge orders for the import of various commodities which are due to be delivered at appropriate dates for domestic consumption. The import programme committee has also submitted supplementary recommendations stressing the necessity of expanding stock-piling capacities to meet fluctuation", the Minister said.

BAGHDAD OBSERVER 15/2/74

"BIGGEST EVER IMPORT PROGRAMME"



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BRITISH EMBASSY

BAGHDAD

13 November 1974

G S Burton Esq  
Middle East Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
LONDON

Copy

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Economics D.

Miss Williams. CDE & DOT  
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*See below.*

1. I enclose a translation of an interview given by the (former) Minister of Planning to the weekly magazine "Alif Ba" on 30 October. As you will see, the main points which he made are:-

- (a) the population is expected to double by 1995;
- (b) the national income in 1995 will be 8 times the 1970 figure;
- (c) development will be based on diversifying the economy away from its present reliance on oil.

*Yours ever,*

K D Temple



TRANSLATION

INTERVIEW WITH DR JAWAD HASHIM, MINISTER OF PLANNING:

ALIF BA - 30 OCTOBER, 1974

Speaking about long-term development planning in Iraq, until 1995, the Minister said:-

"The preliminary figures of the long-term Plan at the Ministry of Planning indicate a two-fold increase of population by 1995 compared with the estimated figure for 1975. But against this increase of population, according to long-term national planning, there will be an increase in the national income exceeding the average growth of population by several times, and this will result in a continuous increase in individual income and raising the standard of living of the people rapidly.

"The national income, at fixed prices, will in 1995 amount to 8 times what it was in 1970. But if we consider the increases which the country will obtain from oil revenues, even on the humblest assumptions, the calculations of the Plan indicate an increase of more than 10 times, which will increase average individual income to 5 times that of 1970.

"In the calculations of the next 20 year Plan, the general and sector surveys indicate fundamental changes in the structure of the Iraqi economy. These changes will be achieved in accordance with the strategy shown in the Political Report of the 8th Regional Conference of the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party. In pursuance of this, the Plan aims to save time by getting rid of aspects of backwardness and creating co-ordinated changes in various economic and social structures with the purpose of raising the country to high levels of development. Among these changes will be getting rid of one-sided development and creating firm conditions for comprehensive development. In this respect, the studies of the Plan point to basic changes in the composition of general local output. In spite of the absolute increase of oil revenues during the next 20 years, its proportion in the composition of general output will decrease continually while the proportion of other industries will grow; this will lead to a reduction of dependence on oil and create a developed economy, distinguished by diversity



of production and diversity of export. Such change will lead to the development of agricultural and current industries and building new industries. Naturally these changes will be accompanied by a great increase in the total amount of investment on the one hand and, on the other, raising the capabilities of investment, and the method of its distribution amongst the basic sectors. Thus the averages of total growth and of sector growth will increase according to the ideal proportion in the calculations of the long-term Plan and in accordance with the directions of the political leadership in the strategy of development and its aim of achieving the ambitions of the people."



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BRITISH EMBASSY

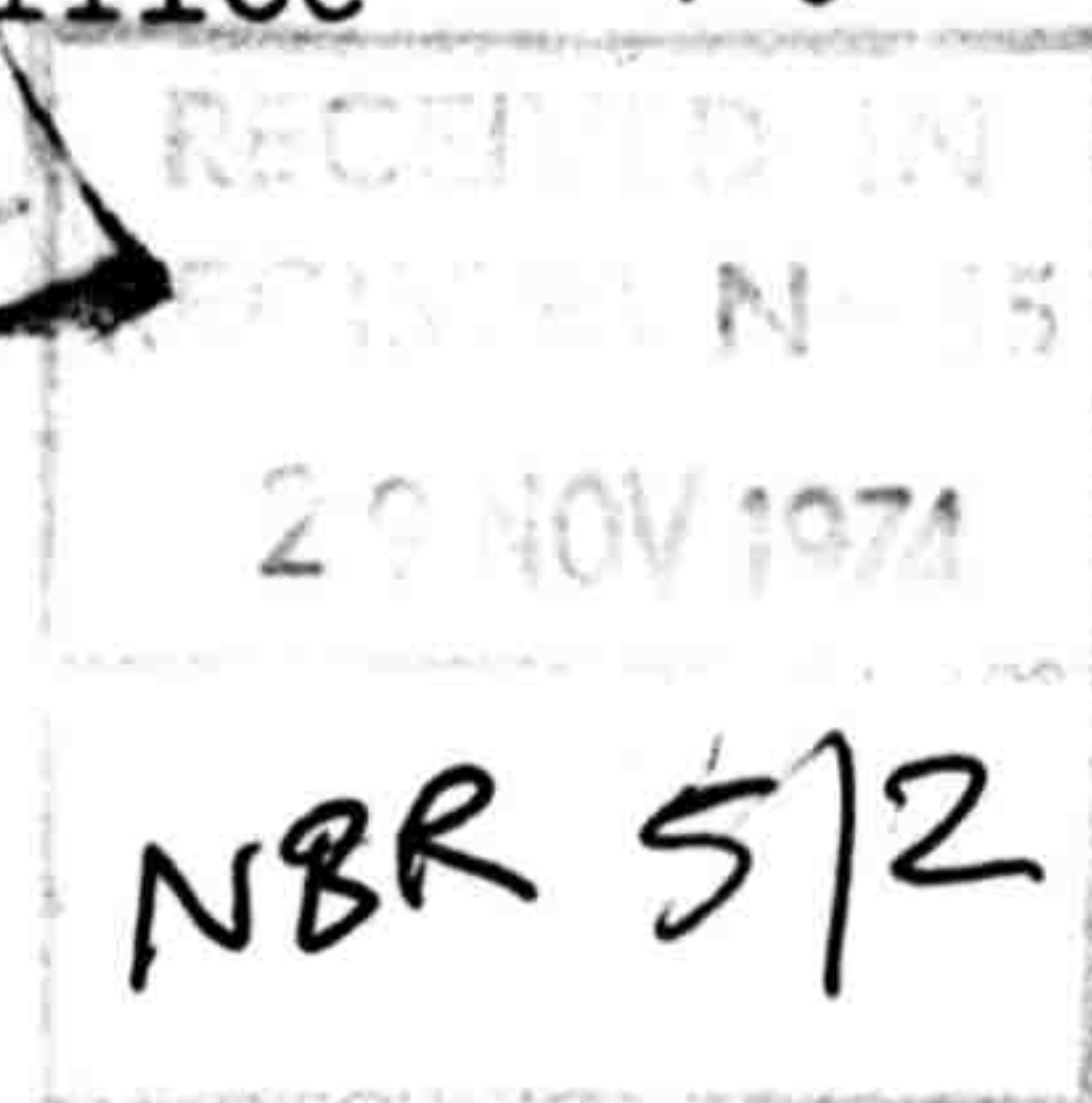
BAGHDAD

23 November 1974

G S Burton Esq  
Middle East Department  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
LONDON

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*See below.*



SPEECH BY SADDAM HUSSEIN

1. On 9 November, Saddam Hussein addressed the Iraqi Economists' Association on the strategy of long-term development. The speech, printed in full in two issues of last week's Baghdad Observer, was the first he has made since I arrived here in early September.
2. What he said seemed to have the tone of a fireside discussion rather than a prepared speech, and the ideas did not seem as well thought out as one would expect from a leader with his position. He commented on the role of heavy industry in Iraq, saying that it should take into consideration the needs of the Arab Nation. Several times he stressed the link there ought to be between politics and economics, saying that every paragraph of the political report of the 8th Regional Conference (of the Ba'ath Party) should be linked to action. Everyone is a politician even if he is not affiliated, and politics will confront everyone. Every Iraqi must think as a leader otherwise "we cannot build the society to which we aspire, a society that must be built not by coercion but by conviction".
3. He threw out several new ideas. Iraqis should change their thinking; the role of women should be expanded, food canning should be increased to save them time in the kitchen; there might be morning and evening working hours and a 5 day week. On population, he suggested that the rate of growth in Iraq should be increased from 3.2% per annum so that there would be sufficient population for "self-defence". Moreover, in development planning, one should take into account the "qualitative" development of people (by which I think he meant educational development and the effect this has on productivity and on aspirations).
4. There was also a section exhorting Iraqis to "keep a close eye on what is going on in the world"; an economist must know of developments in international politics, and a statesman must understand military and economic science.

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- 2 -

5. I am reporting this to you mainly for the insight it gives into Saddam Hussein's character. I must confess I expected something rather better thought out than this - in some places his meaning was unintelligible.

*yours etc.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K D Temple'.

K D Temple

*P.S. Since dictating the above, I have photocopied the speech - you may find it interesting to read - full.*

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Speech By Saddam Hussein; Economic And Development Planning In Iraq. Economic Situation In Iraq. 17 Feb. 1974. MS Middle East Online: Iraq, 1914-1974: Selected files from series AIR, CAB, CO, FCO, FO, PREM, T, WO, The National Archives, Kew, UK FCO 8/2319. Newspaper Cutting. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Archives Unbound, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5107472845/GDSC?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDSC&xid=90703e65&pg=1](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5107472845/GDSC?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-GDSC&xid=90703e65&pg=1). Accessed 11 Apr. 2022.